equipment of appropriate international standards should be made available for sports competitions requiring such equipment, by importing it free of customs duty.

Promotion of Sports and Physical Education by Non-Governmental Institutions : Government alone cannot promote and develop sports and physical education on the scale required. Active participation and support from non-governmental institutions, whether public or private, in the matter of finance, infrastructure and organisation should be encouraged.

Research and Development : Research and development in the field of sports and physical education should be actively encouraged both in the private and public sectors. In this context, special attention needs to be paid to the development of sports sciences in the country.

Employment of Mass Media : The mass media should be effectively employed in spreading and sustaining sports consciousness in the country.

The implementation of this sports policy will need substantial additional financial outlays by the Central and States Governments. Investment in the promotion of sports and physical education, being investment in health, fitness, productivity and social well-being of the people, is really for upgradation of our human resources for development. Such investment in sports and physical education should, therefore, be adequately increased.

The Government of India will review alongwith the State Governments, every five years, the progress made in the implementation of this national policy and suggest further course of action as may be necessary as a result of such review.

Supply of Blood Platelets by R.C.S.

*159. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Red Cross Society (R.C.S.) has failed to provide blood platelets and is finding it difficult to ensure the steady supply of blood;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the society in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c). During September, October and November, 1996, the Blood Banks of the IRCS has been functioning round the clock on all days of the week with enhanced medical and para-medical work force and supplied platelet Concentrate as per the demand of patients coming from various hospitals and nursing homes in and around Delhi. No cases was refused.

Yellow Fever Warning

*160. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has since warned of a possible outbreak of yellow fever in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the basis on which outbreak of yellow fever in the country is anticipated by the World Health Organisation;

(c) whether the hand of certain foreign power is feared in the spread of this disease, as they might have conducted certain virus tests in this country; and

(d) the reaction of the Government with regard thereto stating the preventive measures taken to meet such an eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). The World Health Organisation (WHO) in their Regional Health Report, 1996 have stated that there are some viral infections, including Yellow Fever, that have the potential for spreading in epidemic proportions to the coastal part of East Africa and from there to South East Asia Region, on account of the recent epidemic of Yellow Fever in Kenya.

(c) Government has received no such report.

(d) With a view to facilitating passengers coming from overseas and to provide a single window clearance, so that their waiting time is reduced, the work pertaining to health checks at the Airports has been entrusted to the Immigration authorities since 1986. Such cases, which are specifically referred by the Immigration authorities, are thoroughly examined and, if required, the passengers are placed under quarantine under the provisions of India Port Health Rule, 1955 and the Aircraft (Public Health) Rules, 1954. Measures to step up surveillance have also been initiated.

Lease Hold Rights to Different Lands

1298. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of leasehold rights on different lands granted during the last three years to various individual institutions and trade union organisations by the Directorate of Defence Estate, Central Command;

(b) while granting lease hold rights, Government have not cared to maintain environmental aspect, nor did it get any clearance from the concerned authority;